

# TRIBAL AMBASSADORS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

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The California Indian Museum and Cultural Center

Indigenous Learning and Story Telling with Geospatial  
Technology

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Room 31 A



# Our Mission

*The purpose of the California Indian Museum and Cultural Center (CIMCC) is to educate the public about the history, culture and contemporary life of California Indians and to honor their contributions to civilization.*



# A Native Perspective

- CIMCC advocates for change in how California Indian historic, cultural and contemporary materials are presented in the classroom. The development of historically accurate and culturally sensitive materials are central to this pursuit.



# Primary Interpretative Strategy: Oral History



CIMCC enriches the public by providing Native perspectives. Using storytelling conveyed through sophisticated, interactive multi-media, the museum helps visitors explore the collective experiences of California Indians statewide.

# Planned Exhibits

- Orientation Theater
- Lecture Room
- Library
- Language Recording Studio
- Permanent Exhibits
  - Spanish Mission
  - Traditional Structure
  - Storytelling Arbor
  - Boarding School
  - Contemporary Stories



# Current Exhibits and Programs

- Tillie Hardwick Lecture Series on California Indian History and Cultures
- Pomo Language Projects
- Sanctity, Servitude and Survival [www.californiamissionsnativehistory.org](http://www.californiamissionsnativehistory.org)
- California Native Plant Demonstration Garden
- Special Exhibitions with Tribal and Non-tribal Museum Partners
- New Journeys in Collaboration: California Tribal Museum Partnership Summits
- School Group Tours
- Ishi: A Story of Dignity, Hope and Courage
- Tribal Youth Ambassadors Program





# Tribal Ambassadors Through Technology

- *Tribal Ambassadors Through Technology* is comprised of Native youth ages 9 to 24 from Sonoma County in Northern California. Many of the youth have participated in **Native Youth in Action (NYA)**, a service learning program during the last four years.
- The youth are using GIS to develop databases for CIMCC's high-tech exhibits and education programs.
- The goal is to increase CIMCC's capacity to provide GIS technology training to members of the community and promote GIS education to other Native youth throughout the state.

# Goals for Youth Participants

- Expand professional experience.
- Expand portfolio.
- Gain experience using GIS as a problem solving and resource management tool.
- Participate in the completion of 3 GIS touch-screen kiosks featuring a map of California Indian Country through which visitors will be able to interact with different geospatial data linked with oral history videos and cultural materials from California tribes.
- Foster/Strengthen Tribal Community Bonds
- Empower them to make a difference





# California Indigenous

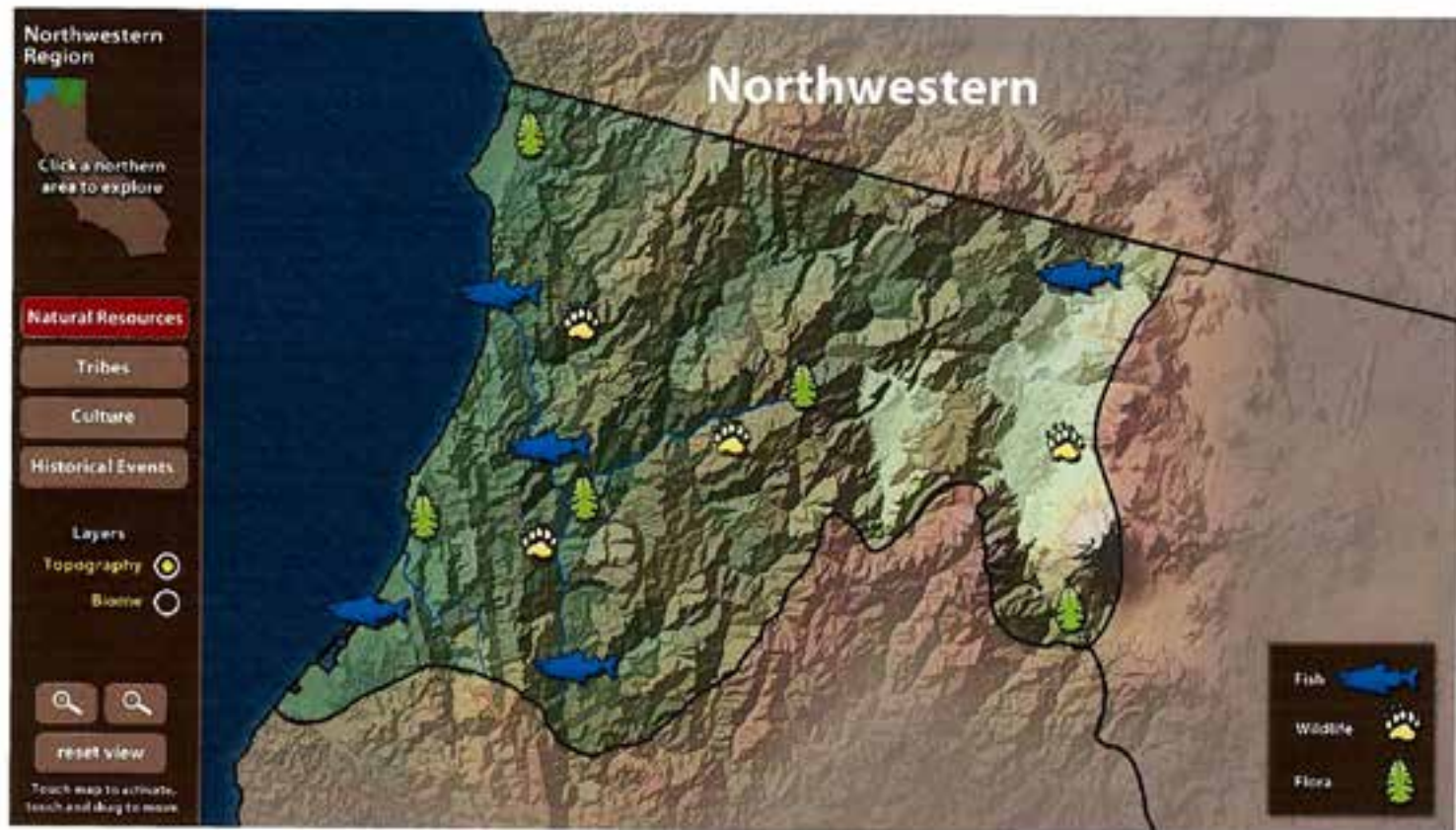


# California Indigenous



- Design Completed, Soliciting Fabrication Funding, 18 month timeline
- California Indigenous will present three GIS stations that cover six “cultural areas”  
(North East, North West, Central, Great Basin, Southern and Colorado River)
- Each of the stations will display information about tribes, natural resources, cultures, and historical events. Icons on each layer will appear so the visitor can explore graphics, videos, texts, oral histories and more.
- Did you know? Question mark icons that pop up questions and fact answers related to content standards
- Artifact Station: Regional representations that tell a story. RFID chips will be used to trigger display content.

# California Indigenous



# California Indigenous



# Reaching Beyond the Scope of the Project



- The project is designed to foster the development of GIS skills beyond the 24 month period.
- The youth meeting 2-4 times per month with several GIS professionals, who provide coaching and mentoring.
- The goals is to have 4 or more youth and 2 or more staff with intermediate to advanced skills in GIS software applicable for developing CIMCC exhibit programs including ESRI ArcGIS for Desktop and Google Earth Professional.
- 2 qualified youth participants will be offered an internship at CIMCC as GIS trainers for 1 year post-project.

# Successes

- Through training and hands-on experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, participants are eligible for one of the fastest growing job markets within California and beyond.
- Involved youth in designing and implementing special projects designed to address real problems within our tribal communities.
- Fostered leadership ability.
- Increased Technological Capacity and Laptop Loans
- Incentive Program: Creativity, Competition and Time Together
- Showcased skills development at annual For All My Relations Conference



# What's Next?

- Complete Database
- GIS Summer Camp Program
  - Tribal Ambassadors Mentor 40 youth
  - Technology and Career Fair
- GIS has been a tool for something more!



# Contact Information

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Weaving Native Culture  
into the Future

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